

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

★ news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Flanagan - Interior 2879

For Release to FM's, OCTOBER 25, 1961

PACIFIC MARINE SPORT FISHERY RESEARCH PLANS BEING FORMULATED

Vacant buildings in a deactivated naval submarine net depot on San Francisco Bay are destined to become a research center for Pacific Coast marine sport fishery, the Department of the Interior reported today.

The site will be known as the Tiburon Marine Research Laboratory. At the outset it will occupy two buildings.

The Department's Fish and Wildlife Service said several reasons underlie the establishment of the laboratory in the San Francisco region: A million and a half sport fishermen seek salt-water fish on the West Coast each year and commercial fishing is of extreme importance to the area.

Assignment of the Tiburon structures to the Fish and Wildlife Service was made possible through an agreement between the Service and the Department of the Navy. Other buildings may be acquired as needed.

Tiburon is in Marin County, just north of San Francisco, and is ideally located as to geography and environment. At its door are the ocean, bays, estuaries, and coastal rivers. Geographically it fills a gap in the Federal fishery research program which has long-established investigations for tuna and other fisheries in southern California waters and the big Columbia research and development program to the north. It is close to transportation facilities, to numerous educational institutions doing considerable research, and is near the headquarters of the California Academy of Sciences. Excellent docks are available to serve the Federal laboratory.

Plans for the new Tiburon Marine Research Laboratory still are being formulated. The center is intended to serve Pacific Coast needs similarly to those provided for the Atlantic Coast by the Sandy Hook Marine Laboratory in New Jersey.

The Sandy Hook Laboratory has been operating a year and has seven biologists and other staff members. One biologist is at Tiburon during the formative period. Like the Sandy Hook Research Laboratory, the Tiburon Laboratory will be under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

Bureau officials emphasized that when the Pacific marine sport fishery research program is fully operational its work will have been carefully coordinated with private and public research activities seeking answers in the same field.

X X X